

Revision to Enforcement Ordinance and Regulation for the “Act on the Rational Use of Energy” and Ministerial Notification of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

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Energy Efficiency and Conservation Division
Agency of Natural Resources and Energy
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry**

1. Outline of the system

Under Article 78 of the Act on the Rational Use of Energy (Law No. 49 of 1979; hereinafter referred to as the "Energy Efficiency Law"), the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry shall decide and make public the standards for judgment of manufacturers and importers about improvement in the performance of the specific machines (the "energy efficiency standards"). It is prescribed in the Energy Efficiency Law that new energy efficiency standards need to be established taking account of the energy efficiency of the specific machines which have the highest energy efficiency and other related factors. (It is called the "Top Runner Program".)

The scope of the specific machines is defined in Article 21 of the Enforcement Ordinance for the Energy Efficiency Law and exceptions are defined in Article 48 of the Enforcement Regulations for the Energy Efficiency Law. The Energy Efficiency standards are established by the “Notifications of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry”.

2. Outline of amendment

The main points of amendment are as follows:

- (1) The energy efficiency standards are established for Commercial Refrigerators, Refrigerator-freezers and Freezers.
- (2) The energy efficiency standards are established for multifunction devices* and printers.

*Multifunction devices are defined as printers capable of performing two or more of the following functions : copying , printing , scanning and faxing.

3. Objective

To promote rationalization of overall energy consumption in Japan through prevalence of machinery and equipment with high energy consumption efficiency, in order to cope with the recent increase of energy consumption in commercial/residential sector, global warming problem and so on.

4. Proposed date of entry into force

This amendment will be entry into force on April 1st, 2012.